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Eva Hall to Fanny Jones, 5 January 1897

Cossack

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1897

My dear Fanny

Thanks very much for your nice newsy letter, I received it whilst at Mallina & it quite cheered me up, of course ere this you have had word of poor old Tillie's illness. I think nothing but her splendid constitution could have pulled her through, but of course she is carefully dieted still & will be for some weeks to come, poor Mr Taylor (her fellow sufferer) an Englishman only 24 died last Sunday week. Val sent for the Doctor a second time for him, but his heart was very weak & he had a relapse, so of course stood no chance of recovering, his death in the house must have upset them all very much. I had left the previous week, so escaped part of the gloom. Val & Tillie expect to go South at the end of this month & have kindly invited me to make one of their party, I expect they *think* they owe me undying gratitude for being a little bit useful during their time of trouble, especially as their most *trusted* friends failed them & did not come to the fore at all. Anyhow I shall thoroughly appreciate a change again, but I do so wish it was to visit you again instead of only Perth. It is just 2 years tomorrow since I embarked for my last trip.

I thought you would get the weight of Joy if she stayed long enough, the only thing I fancied she might be on her guard & try to hide some of her idiosyncrasies, of course it was a common thing for her to demand more respect from *me*, but I thought she would have had more sense than to imagine that *you* would be overcome by her *fancied* greatness. I often told her I thought a glass case would be the best place for her — but after all she is mostly to be pitied for both parents have endeavoured to *spoil* her all her little life. Neither of them write to me often. I haven't yet heard a line about the Sydney trip from them.

Mrs Gillam & I are spending a week in Cossack. Aubrey has lent us Aunt's house & we are getting in our own provisions & with the help of a couple of natives are doing our own work. I can't call it much of a holiday, she is not in a state to care much for walking out & we

resemble the hermit crab in living with our house on our backs. I hear pretty often from Flora now she does not know yet that I am going down. Tillie's married sister (her only relative up here) is with her, so of course I felt satisfied at leaving her in good hands.

Remember me kindly to any inquiring friends, I don't suppose you will see any of them often when you once move to Portarlington. I am pleased that Ted Hall's wife is so nice. Our boys are doing very well. Willie has just got the management of a Station on the Ashburton, a good little home, of course everything found him & [£]200 a year. I think he might venture to look out for a wife now. Give my love (heaps of it) to dear Auntie & "Cousin Bob" & oceans of it for yourself from your loving cos  
Eva

I wish you all a very Happy New Year

[Addressed to:  
Mrs R D Jones  
Woodside  
Golden Square  
Bendigo  
Victoria]